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NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
10 May 1982

Ron asks Brez for N-talks

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Eureka, Ill.—Declaring that the "ultimate nightmare" of nuclear war must be averted, President Reagan yesterday called on Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev to begin negotiations next month to reduce substantially the size and destructive power of each nation's nuclear arsenal.

There was no immediate reaction from Moscow.

"My duty as President is to insure that the ultimate nightmare never occurs, that the prairies and the cities and the people who inhabit them remain free and untouched by nuclear conflict," Reagan said in a commencement address delivered to the graduating class of 86 students at his alma mater, Eureka College.

Reagan, outlining the United States position on what he has described as "START" negotiations—an acronym formed from "strategic arms reductions talks"—proposed that the U.S. and the Soviets reduce their warheads

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on sea and land-launched ballistic missiles by at least one third.

He also proposed that both sides agree that no more than half of these warheads be fixed on land-based missiles. The Soviets have more—and deadlier—land-based missiles than the U.S. has, and the 50% restriction would reduce their advantage.

U.S. OFFICIALS estimate that the U.S. and the Soviet Union have about 7,500 warheads each. Reagan's proposal would reduce that number to 5,000 for each side and would force a reduction in the missile forces of both countries in order to get within that limit.

Reagan also proposed a second phase of talks that would deal with a sizable Soviet advantage in "throw weight." The heavier weight of the Soviet warheads gives Moscow an almost three-to-one advantage in the destructive power of their missiles.

Reagan said that in both phases of the START talks, the U.S. "shall insist on verification procedures" to insure Soviet compliance with any agreement to reduce arms, but he did not spell out whether the U.S. would push for on-site inspection, which the Soviets have always resisted, or some other form of surveillance.

Reagan said he had written to Brezhnev seeking the start of formal negotiations that he hopes could "begin by the end of June."

Eureka is the small Christian college that Reagan entered in 1928—the year before the great stock market crash—when tuition was \$180 a year. He had recalled fondly in his autobiography that he "fell head over heels in love" with life on this 112-acre campus, and he repeated yesterday: "Yes, this place is deep in my heart. Everything that has been good in my life began here."